GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7004
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
PROMOTION OF FOLK DANCE OF ORISSA
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the popularity of the puppet dances of Orissa particularly of Dhenkenal;

(b) if so, whether the puppeteers of that State are facing a great hardship due to lack of proper support from the Government; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote folk dance of Orissa, particularly puppet dances of Dhenkenal?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) & (c). The Sangeet Natak Akademi provides support to traditional forms of puppetry through grant of financial assistance to groups/institutions of puppetry, organising festivals and workshops, documentation, training programmes, publications, grant of Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards, etc. The shadow puppetry form `Ravan Chhaya` of Dhenkenal, has been represented in different festivals and events of the Akademi and the East Zone Culture Centre, Kolkata.Two eminent puppeteers of Orissa have been honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.